

communications having independent data rates between a base station and a subscriber unit, the system comprising:

5 at least one base station comprising:

first means for processing a first communication for transmitting to said at least one subscriber unit including first means for determining the data rate required to support said first communication; and

10 first transmission means for transmitting communications at one of said plurality of data rates having data rate selection means responsive to said first determining means;

and at least one subscriber unit comprising:

means for establishing a communication channel having a capacity of a first data communication rate;

15 means for communicating at a second data communication rate, wherein said first data communication rate is higher than said second data communication rate;

second means for processing a second communication for transmitting to said base station including second means for determining the data rate required to support said communication; [and]